



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

Office of Communications • Mark Dallas Loeffler, Director
1700 N. Congress Ave. • Austin, TX 78701-1495 • 512-463-5339 • FAX: 512-475-1415

PRESS RELEASE

Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery dedication Dec. 7

Retired General Marc Cisneros keynote speaker for celebration of hallowed grounds

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 17, 2011

Contact: Jim Suydam
512-463-2716
512-417-5382
jim.suydam@glo.texas.gov

AUSTIN — Texas veterans and those who support them are invited to a December 7 dedication of the Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery. The dedication will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the 54-acre site, located at 9974 Interstate 37 Access Road, Corpus Christi.

Retired Army Lieutenant General Mark Cisneros, a South Texas native son, will be the keynote speaker.

"I want to invite everyone to come and help us dedicate these hallowed grounds," said Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, chairman of the Texas Veterans Land Board. "Dedicating this place of honor on Pearl Harbor Day will serve as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by those who serve and a reminder why we honor them every day."

The 54-acre grassy field has been transformed over the past year thanks to the cooperation of numerous local, state and federal elected officials. More than 53,000 Coastal Bend veterans - all eligible for a dignified and free burial - have anticipated the December 7 dedication for years.

"I feel humbled and honored to be part of this project," Patterson said. "This will be a magnificent place of honor for Texas veterans and their spouses. They deserve nothing less."

The site was donated by Flint Hills Resources and submitted by Nueces County to the Veterans Land Board. Construction of the cemetery was funded with an \$8.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery will have an ultimate capacity for up to 31,500 burials and interments of cremated remains. It will be developed in phases as needed. The initial construction phase will include 4,844 grave sites.

To learn more about the Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery, visit

<http://www.glo.texas.gov/vlb/veterans-benefits/veterans-cemeteries/corpus-cemetery.html> .

WHO: Retired Army General Marc Cisneros
WHAT: Dedication of the Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery
WHEN: 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011
WHERE: 9974 Interstate 37 Access Road, Corpus Christi
WHY: To dedicate a place of honor for Texas veterans

###